

The District 3 Slate

April 2000

County Supervisor Pam Slater

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-- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor
Pam Slater

Dear friend:

At the County, we are proud of how we have turned away from the brink of insolvency and moved to vigorous fiscal health. But our financial turnaround affects more than just our stellar credit rating or our reserves. It means we can direct more funds to services, such as libraries, that more directly affect you and improve your quality of life.

In this edition of *The District 3 Slate*, you can read about our plans to improve the County Library system, so that our branch libraries are open for more hours, provide more books and resource materials, and provide better service to you. In the next three years, you will see a vastly improved County Library system.

You can also get an update on the plans to build new libraries for five existing branches.

All in all, it's an exciting time for county libraries.

Pam Slater

County libraries start new chapter in service

Visitors to county libraries will notice some significant changes during the next three years.

Thanks to a plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in April, library patrons will discover that their favorite library is open for more hours, contains more books, and provides more programs for young and old alike.

"This plan represents a huge step forward for our county



Better service: The Encinitas branch is one of several county libraries that will benefit from the property tax growth plan.

libraries," said Supervisor Pam Slater. "It's an ambitious plan to expand the library's services without asking taxpayers to pay

another cent more."

The money to pay for the added hours and services will come from a re-allocation in property taxes.

The Board of Supervisors, acting on the recommendations of Supervisors Slater and Jacob, sought state legislation that enabled the County to shift a portion of the growth in property tax revenues to the library system.

State Assemblywoman Susan
See **Libraries** on back page ...

Bookmobile wheels into county's rural areas

If you can't make it to a county library, we'll bring a county library to you.

That's the goal of the San Diego County Bookmobile service, which serves the remote backcountry areas of North and East County.

"The County Bookmobile has developed quite a devoted following," Supervisor Slater said. "It's gratifying to see that people appreciate this service."

Residents who use the bookmobile have access to the county's full collection of books and materials.

For rural North County residents who need books from another library system, interlibrary loans are available through the Vista Branch library, County Librarian Marilyn Crouch said.

"Public libraries have been called 'the people's university,'" Slater said. "But sometimes, you have to bring the university to the people."



Young reader: Supervisor Slater helps a young reader select a book during a bookmobile visit.

The county bookmobile holds slightly more than 2,500 items. It circulates more than 17,000 books and travels 5,000 miles annually.

The staff of Supervisor Pam Slater

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Next Stop: When and where will the bookmobile stop in District Three? See the schedule below.

DEL DIOS: Hernandez' Hideway restaurant, 19320 Lake Drive, Escondido. The bookmobile will stop from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesday, on April 4th, 18th, May 2nd, 16th and 30th; and June 13th and 27th.

ELFIN FOREST: Elfin Forest Fire Station, 20223 Elfin Forest Road. The bookmobile will stop from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, on April 4th, 18th; May 2nd, 16th, and 30th; and June 13th and 27th.

Cardiff branch is among five libraries to get new homes

As part of their plan to improve county libraries, the Board of Supervisors has decided to build five new county branch libraries: Bonita, Cardiff, Rancho San Diego, Spring Valley and Valley Center.

"Thanks to the financial turnaround at the County, we're able to direct more funding toward libraries," said Supervisor Pam Slater. "We want these new

libraries to be the centerpieces of these neighborhoods."

Here is an update on the progress for the five libraries:

Cardiff: A 5,000-sq.ft. building will replace a storefront, rented facility. The Board has approved the acquisition of two parcels at Newcastle Avenue and Liverpool Drive. An anonymous donor has offered to help building the library with a significant

Libraries:

Davis introduced legislation (AB 494) on the county's behalf, and Gov. Gray Davis signed the bill into law in October.

The law directed the County Auditor to allocate \$2.8 million of the county's property tax growth in each of the next three fiscal years, resulting in a permanent increase of \$8.5 million.

The county system now will be able to open all 31 branches at 10 a.m., at least five days a week. The smallest libraries will see a 50 percent increase in hours.

Medium-sized branch libraries, such as Encinitas, Cardiff and Solana Beach, will now be open two nights per week.

Youth services will be expanded, with more emphasis focused on youth between the ages of 12 and 15.

The library system's budget for book, magazines, and newspapers will increase by \$1.67 million by the end of the three-year period, almost doubling the current materials budget.

"I want to especially thank all the volunteers from the Library Friends for their incredible help and dedication," Slater said.

Press "enter": County Supervisor Pam Slater instructs John William Schnell of Cardiff on one of the first of 154 personal computers donated to the County Library system by the Pennant Alliance and the Gates Foundation. The computers will significantly improve the public's access to the Internet.



contribution. Design for the \$2.5 million project will begin soon. Ground breaking is projected for Fall 2000.

Rancho San Diego: The 32nd branch of the County Library will be built on a 1.8-acre county-owned lot on Brabham Street.

Spring Valley: A 15,000 sq.ft. branch will replace a 4,300sq.ft. leased storefront. The County is working to finalize a site.

Bonita: An 8,000sq.ft. building will replace the existing 3,000 sq.ft. library. The County is working with a developer on a retail shopping center site on Bonita Road.

Valley Center: A 15,000 sq.ft. library will replace a 2,780 sq.ft. building. The Board of Supervisors has approved the option to buy a 4-acre site at Cole Grade Road and Horse Creek Trail.

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